



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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78th SWCS International Annual Conference Updates

Des Moines, Iowa
August 6-9, 2023
www.swcs.org/23AC

Call for Presentations Released

SWCS is seeking oral presentations, posters, symposia, professional development sessions, and workshops for the 78th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place in Des Moines, Iowa, August 6-9, 2023.

Submissions are being accepted for three special and eight general topic areas:

- Cultivating Conservation Technical Assistance, Community, and Networks
- Climate-Smart Agriculture
- Edge-of-Field Practices and Monitoring
- 2023 General Conference Theme Submissions

General submissions should speak to the overall conference theme, "Healthy Land, Clean Water: Cultivating a Legacy of Conservation."

The submission deadline is **February 15, 2023**. Download the [Call for Presentations](#) for more information.

This year's conference theme, "Healthy Land, Clean Water: Cultivating a Legacy of Conservation," challenges us to envision the world we want to leave for those who follow us. At this year's event, we will share successes and embrace lessons learned so that we can move toward our natural resource goals with greater speed, efficiency, effectiveness, and inclusivity. We will examine the traditions that have both built and challenged our ability to advance the conservation movement while exploring the new and necessary capacity, innovation, and partnerships needed to regenerate our land, water, and other natural resources.

The conference will assemble a diverse, multigenerational conservation community of researchers, practitioners, industry leaders, farmers, and students from around the world in Des Moines, Iowa, where the Soil and Water Conservation Society was founded 78 years ago and is still headquartered today. The agenda will feature the latest ideas, technologies, and practices, and foster a dialogue around their adoption. Through workshops, sessions, symposia, tours, exhibits, and demonstrations, cutting-edge research and practice developments in soil health, water quality, and resource management will be shared. Scientists and practitioners will present their work at the field, farm, and watershed scale across an array of private and public arenas. Applications of social theories and examples of successful outreach and education will enable attendees to identify ways to scale up localized successes. Participants will also hear about policy and economic developments that build a framework to increase conservation adoption and support future generations.

Visit www.swcs.org/23AC for additional information on this year's event.

Become a Conference Exhibitor or Sponsor

The 78th SWCS International Annual Conference is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with a uniquely targeted group of conservation and environmental professionals. Becoming an exhibitor or 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 and those who influence prospective buyers and conservationists.

Download and review the [Exhibitor and Sponsor Guide](#) for full details and to become an exhibitor or sponsor today!

Exhibitors and sponsors will be recognized in the preliminary program if the contract, payment, and logo are received by **March 31, 2023**.



Cultivate a Legacy of Conservation with a Gift to SWCS!

The efforts of SWCS, our members, and our partners ensure that we leave a legacy of stewardship for future generations. We need your help to continue our work to protect soil and water resources.

Your contribution will help us develop new initiatives and educational opportunities to support conservation professionals. Donate [online](#) now, by phone at 1-800-THE SOIL (1-800-843-7645), and for federal employees, through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) with the code #11797. Thank you!

Individuals like you ensure that we leave a sustainable world to those who follow us.

2022 GIVING CAMPAIGN

WWW.SWCS.ORG/GIVE

2021-2022 SWCS Annual Report



The 2021-2022 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 networking and advocacy work in the nation's capital, the 76th SWCS International

Annual Conference, and findings of the first Conservation Practitioner Poll. 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.

Chapter Reports and Awards Released

The annual [Chapter Activity Report](#) is available for our leaders to complete with updates and information on their year's work in 2022. The information provided is used to submit charitable applications and will be used by the national organization to ensure we are providing chapters with the best support possible. This report is combined with the chapter awards nomination form, allowing chapters to easily apply for two annual awards when filling out the report. Information regarding Chapter Activity Reports has been sent to chapter leaders.

All reports are to be submitted through the online form by **February 24, 2023**. Please contact memberservices@swcs.org with any questions.

Chapter Leadership Training and Workshop

Chapter leaders joined SWCS staff on Wednesday, December 14, for a Chapter Leadership Training on Member Engagement. A recording of this event is available [online](#).

Coming next, SWCS will host an interactive Virtual Chapter Leadership Workshop on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, from 12 to 1 p.m. CT. This event will focus on implementing the resources presented on the December Training on Member Engagement. Attendees will complete their 2023 Chapter Action Calendars, with feedback from SWCS staff and other chapter leaders.

[Register now!](#)



Science and Policy Committee Seeking Student Representative for 2023

This is a message to members on college campuses and in advisory roles for students. Please forward this message along to others in your network.

The SWCS Science and Policy Committee is made up of members representing many conservation professions. They convene virtually each month to discuss new and emerging conservation research, listen to invited speakers, and advise SWCS leadership on policy matters. SWCS is seeking a student representative to join the committee. The student selected will serve from February to November of 2023, and will be expected to attend all monthly virtual meetings. They will also be encouraged to attend the SWCS annual conference in Des Moines, Iowa, August 6-9, 2023; assist in student recruitment activities; and undertake a project under guidance from the committee related to their professional interests.

Any student members, undergraduate or graduate, may apply by filling out a brief application on the [SWCS website](#). It is also posted on SWCS social media platforms. All applicants must be members of SWCS at the time of applying. The deadline to apply is January 5, 2023. For more information or to apply, contact Joe Otto at joe.otto@swcs.org.

Upcoming Events

[SWCS Michigan Chapter Webinar Workshop](#)

Virtual Event
December 16, 2022

[SWCS Chapter Leadership Workshop: Chapter Action Calendars](#)

Virtual Event
January 11, 2023

[SWCS Empire State Chapter Annual Meeting](#)

Virtual Event/Auburn, New York
January 24, 2023

[Student Professional Development Session 3: Thriving at Work & School](#)

Virtual Event
January 26, 2023

[Student Professional Development Session 4: Branding U](#)

Virtual Event
February 23, 2023

Science and Policy Update: December Meeting

The Science and Policy Committee serves the Soil and Water Conservation Society and its members by gathering information and knowledge about pertinent topics within conservation science and policy, making them accessible, and producing results-driven content and advice. It also provides policy experience to natural scientists, building career experiences in policy for early career scientists and students. The Society is actively engaged in policy focused on conservation. Previously, the committee developed Principles of Conservation ([Manale et al. 2018](#)).

At our recent meeting on December 8, SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl informed the committee of policy protocols in SWCS. With support from the Society, Clare was able to spend three months in Washington, DC, this past year, making many important connections, developing meaningful contact with 69 different agencies and organizations, and recruiting new members. She noted that through the opportunity to be in DC, she felt more connected to other national leaders, since conservation is about relationships, and building these relationships is important to the mission of the Society.

Clare shared some important lessons learned from her time in DC. The Society has a unique perspective. As Clare stressed, if we are not at the table, what won't be said? What won't be heard? The voice of conservation professionals, agriculture, and our unique perspective on science-to-practice are critical values that Society members bring. While most of us do not work in policy (and are indeed often prohibited as state and federal government employees from having anything to do with policy), there are policy implications of all of our work. Our voices, experiences, knowledge, and insights are needed to guide policy.

The work of SWCS staff is to build coalitions. SWCS is now part of the Ag Conservation Coalition. We have a presence in Washington, DC. The Society plans to do more policy-related work, rearrange or reassign staff, and add staff or consultants as needed to better serve the Society and be the voice for conservation. The Society is in the process of developing a policy on policy that aligns with the needs and interests of our members and identifies actions. The recent survey of Society members revealed that the primary interest was to be informed of relevant policy and trends. Clare will be having meetings on the Farm Bill, and will keep the Science and Policy Committee informed of what science is needed. Clare closed her presentation with a reminder that advocacy is a process, not an event. It requires building relationships.

The broad expertise in basic and applied science of conservation within the Society membership gives us a unique potential to inform policy based on solid scientific principles. The SWCS staff and Science and Policy Committee will be working to organize a framework to identify critical issues; develop roundtables, listening sessions, and dialogues to explore these issues; and prepare information for dissemination. The committee meets on the second Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. CT; all Society members are welcome. This year, we have sought to identify and address key issues of importance in which science can direct policy. Some key issues that have been identified to date include carbon markets and fertilizer management. With the rewrite of the Farm Bill in 2023, the committee will also be exploring critical topics related to conservation for the Farm Bill. The Science and Policy Committee will be publishing monthly reviews of our meetings in the *Conservogram* to inform Society members of our progress and work.

If you have any questions about the Science and Policy Committee, or would like to join us, please contact Joe Otto at joe.otto@swcs.org.

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.

- Comments due soon on how USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) implements [Inflation Reduction Act](#) funding
- US soil could be [eroding](#) up to 1,000 times faster than it should
- Which [wetlands](#) to protect? US Supreme Court will soon decide
- Understanding [farmers' perspectives](#) on conservation practices, water pollution
- Midwest [cover crop](#) planting at an all-time high, study shows
- Kansas State University researchers advancing [computer circuitry](#) to measure soil properties
- [Flood irrigation](#) sustain dwindling wetlands near the Great Salt Lake

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!

Arizona

Emily Yulga

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern New England Chapter

Sara Sperber

Iowa

Gavin Anderson
Brendan Drtina
Erin Nichols

Iowa—Iowa State University Student Chapter

Admir Music
Zoe Nong

Illinois

Philip Young

Kansas—Kansas State University Student Chapter

Gustavo Roa

Michigan

Tess Van Gorder

Missouri—Show Me

Joni Harper

Missouri—University of Missouri Student Chapter

Morgan Davis

Mississippi—Mississippi State University Student Chapter

Patricia Cordero-Irizarry

Nebraska

Sean Glasshoff

Wisconsin

Tierney Bocsi
Nathan Stremcha

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

