

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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Individual Scholarships and Awards

There is still time to recognize your colleagues by nominating them for an award from SWCS. We are also still accepting student submissions for scholarships. The deadline for both award nominations and scholarship submissions is **March 16**. Information about our awards and scholarships programs is available [online](#).

Chapters, It's Time to Brag!

Show off your chapter's achievements and conservation efforts through an SWCS Chapter Award. Our streamlined chapter awards nomination form is combined with the chapter activity report to allow chapters to apply for an award while filling out the mandatory chapter report! This report can be filled-out, saved, and continued at a later time as well. If you'd like your chapter to be considered for an award, please contact your local chapter officers and make sure they fill out the activity report by **March 31**.

Details about the 2018 Chapter Activity Report and Awards Nomination Form are [online](#). Questions? Contact your chapter leader or awards@swcs.org.

New Special Projects Director



Catherine DeLong joined SWCS in January as the special projects director. Catherine is a native of Des Moines, Iowa, and received her Bachelor's in International Relations from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. She returned home to pursue a Master of Science degree in Soil Science from Iowa State

University where her thesis quantified the carbon content of the university's land. Catherine's primary role will be managing SWCS's current grants, seeking out new opportunities, and also contributing to and enhancing SWCS's advocacy and communications. She is thrilled to join the SWCS team, and is ready to get to work!



2018 International Annual Conference

Albuquerque Convention Center
 Albuquerque, New Mexico
 July 29 to August 1, 2018
www.swcs.org/18AC

Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities

Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are still available for the 73rd SWCS International Annual Conference, "Culture, Climate, and Conservation." Our [Exhibitor and Sponsor Guide](#) has information about benefits, rates, and guidelines. Read about these opportunities [online](#) and contact Jamie Nieman at corporate.info@swcs.org with any questions.

Poster Presentation Proposals

The deadline to submit your poster presentation proposal for the 2018 SWCS Annual Conference is **March 9**. Please note that these submissions will not appear in the Preliminary Program. For details on abstract submission categories, you may download the [full Call for Presentations](#).

Get Ready, New Mexico—Here We Come!



Conference attendees, you're in luck! This summer we'll be holding our 73rd International Annual Conference in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico. Take advantage of summer vacation and bring the whole family to Albuquerque. While you attend the conference, your family will have a ball

exploring all that this city has to offer.

What is there to do in Albuquerque?

We took a look at [a list compiled by Visit Albuquerque](#) and picked our top five favorite places to visit.

- Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway.** This tramway is so iconic, we had to include it in our conference logo! Enjoy the sights from the air as you glide through the Sandia Mountains on [the longest tramway in North America](#).
- Explora.** While you're learning about soil and water conservation at our conference, your kids can experience hands-on science experiments at this top-tier [children's museum](#).
- ABQ BioPark.** Looking for one place that has it all? The [ABQ BioPark](#) is for you. Enjoy the serene botanic garden, or experience Albuquerque's wild side at the zoo, aquarium, or Tingley Beach—all part of the ABQ BioPark facilities.

- National Museum of Nuclear Science and History.** At this Smithsonian Affiliate Museum, explore decommissioned rockets and missiles while learning about the deeply rooted history of nuclear science in New Mexico.
- Hot Air Balloon Rides.** Experience ballooning year-round in Albuquerque with local balloon ride companies that will take you on a ride of a lifetime. (Yes, those are hot air balloons in our conference logo!)

Make sure to stop by the [Visit Albuquerque website](#) to learn more about our 2018 host city and surrounding area.

SWCS at the NACD Conference

SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl and Southeast Region Board Director Dale Threatt-Taylor represented SWCS at the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, last month. They had a great time recruiting new members, connecting with conservation districts from across the country, and even put together a conservation trivia game for visitors to play.



Clare Lindahl (left) and Dale Threatt-Taylor (right) representing SWCS at the NACD annual meeting.



North Central Regional Director Election

We are currently searching for our next North Central Regional Director. Being a member of our Board of Directors gives you an opportunity to assist with enhancing the Society's standing in the conservation community. It allows you to represent your region and its interests on a national level, as well as keeps you informed of updates on policy and programs impacting conservation and agriculture. Qualified candidates are members of SWCS who live in the North Central Region of the United States or Canada (see map). They must have adequate time to fulfill the responsibilities of the position and, most importantly, have a passion for helping the Society accomplish our mission.



If you're interested in running for the North Central Regional Director, contact Jamie Nieman at 515-289-2331 ext. 114, or corporate.info@swcs.org by **March 9**.

Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from January



Are you up-to-date with news about soil and water conservation research and policy? *Conservation NewsBriefs* is a highly informative e-news brief that delivers the most relevant content to your inbox each and every Thursday. Below are links to some of the most read articles from over the past month:

- [Is there a ticking time bomb under the Arctic?](#) (NPR)
- [Post-fire landslide problems likely to worsen: What can be done?](#) (EcoWatch)
- [High-tech tools help map Chesapeake Bay restoration](#) (Bloomberg BNA)
- [Group hopes new deal will help shrink Gulf dead zone](#) (Houma Today)

[Click here](#) to sign up and start receiving your weekly *Conservation NewsBriefs* today!

News from DC

Courtesy of SWCS DC Representative John Peterson

- The White House fiscal 2019 budget request sent to Congress on February 12 proposed major cuts to conservation technical assistance offered to farmers and ranchers, loan and grant programs for rural water infrastructure and housing, and USDA discretionary spending. The chairmen of the House and Senate agriculture committees issued a joint statement implying that they would largely ignore the White House proposal.
- The USDA recently released a 23-page [report](#) by the White House Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity. The task force focuses on improving economic development, workforce, technology innovation, and general quality of life in rural America.
- The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that future challenges to the "waters of the US" rule, or WOTUS, should be heard by federal district courts, not the circuit court of appeals. This ruling puts in jeopardy the US Circuit Court of Appeals stay on the rule that was issued in October of 2015.
- USDA Chief Sonny Perdue released "[Farm Bill and Legislative Principles](#)" for 2018 that he hopes Congress will use as a road map as it debates and crafts the 2018 farm bill.
- Smaller farms that struggle the most to make ends meet are also the ones that are least likely to receive government support from the farm bill, a new [report](#) shows. An [article](#) in *The Daily Yonder* breaks down the report stating only one quarter of America's farmers participate in federal support programs.
- A budget and disaster-aid package that could speed the passage of a new farm bill was worked out by congressional leaders last week. The budget deal authorizes new assistance for dairy and cotton producers and creates new funding for the farm bill in the process.

Upcoming Events

[Michigan Chapter ANR Seminar](#)
East Lansing, Michigan
March 2, 2018

[Southern New England Chapter Winter Conference](#)
Sturbridge, Massachusetts
March 16, 2018

[Firman E. Bear Chapter Meeting and Tour](#)
TBD, New Jersey
April 20, 2018

New Members

Welcome members who joined in January!

International

Abdulaziz Alghamdi
Liangjun Zhu

Arizona

Kevin Bronson

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island

Hillary Kenyon

DC—National Capital Chapter

Pipa Elias

Delaware/Maryland—Pokomoke

Kelly Ireland

Hawaii and Pacific Basin

Mae Nakahata

Iowa

Bill Martin

Illinois

George Holsapple
Jason Hunt
Michele Rehbein

Michigan

Korie Blyveis
Vic Lane
Steve Schaub
Carolyn Ulstad
Rob Vink

Missouri—Show Me

Jacob Gray
Rachel Veenstra

North Carolina—Hugh Hammond Bennett

Vernon Cox
Charles Wilson Jr

Nebraska

Sean Elliott
Eric Gottschalk

New York—Empire State

Maureen Leupold

Ohio—All Ohio

Kevin Edinger

Oklahoma

Ben Pollard

Washington—Olympic View

Gary Farrell

Corporate Members

Please contact corporate.info@swcs.org for more details.

Gold



Silver



Bronze

