

CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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74th SWCS International Annual Conference

Wyndham Grand Downtown
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 28–31, 2019

www.swcs.org/19AC

Poster Presentation Proposals

The deadline to submit your poster presentation proposal for the 74th SWCS International Annual Conference is Wednesday, March 6, 2019. Please note that these submissions will not appear in the Preliminary Program.

For details on abstract submission categories, download the [Call for Presentations](#), or visit www.swcs.org/19AC.



Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities

Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are still available for the 74th SWCS International Annual Conference, "Bridging the Divide: Uniting Rural and Urban Landscapes for Conservation."

View the opportunities in our [Exhibitor and Sponsor Guide](#) and contact events@swcs.org with any questions.

Chapter Activity Report and Awards Nomination Form

Show off your chapter's achievements and conservation efforts through an SWCS Chapter Award! Our Chapter Awards Nomination Form is combined with the mandatory Chapter Activity Report, allowing chapters to easily apply for two annual awards when filling out the 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 29, 2019**.

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



Top: The North Dakota Chapter wins the 2018 Chapter Achievement Award and Outstanding Chapter Award.

Bottom: The Razorback Chapter wins the 2018 Outstanding Chapter Award.

Individual Awards and Scholarships

Do you know an individual or organization that is a leader in natural resource conservation and sustainability? Consider nominating them for an SWCS award! Visit www.swcs.org/awards for additional information and to submit your nomination.

Are you in need of financial assistance to continue your education or update your skill set? There are three national scholarships available for SWCS student members! Visit www.swcs.org/scholarships for additional information and to fill out your application.

Submission deadline for individual awards and scholarships is **March 29, 2019**.



C. Wayne Honeycutt (left), recipient of the 2018 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award, with SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl (right).

Upcoming Events

[Illinois Chapter Prescribed Fire Workshop](#)

Hillsboro, Illinois
February 22, 2019

[Michigan Chapter Seminar](#)

St. Johns, Michigan
March 6, 2019

[Southern New England Chapter Annual Winter Conference](#)

Berlin, Connecticut
March 22, 2019

[SWCS 74th International Annual Conference](#)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
July 28-31, 2019

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SWCS at the NACD Conference

SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl and Southeast Region Board Director Dale Threatt-Taylor represented SWCS at the 2019 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) 73rd Annual Meeting, February 3-5, in San Antonio, Texas. They had a great time promoting SWCS membership opportunities and met with conservation partners from across the country.



Top: Southeast Region Board Director Dale Threatt-Taylor with SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl at the 2019 NACD Annual Meeting,

Bottom: SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl with USDA NRCS Chief Matt Lohr (left photo) and NACD President Tim Palmer (right photo).

Meet Whitney, SWCS's Newest Intern



This past January, Whitney Bugni joined the SWCS team in Ankeny, Iowa, as an intern. She is developing a document and historical record management plan for SWCS, as well as contributing to policy and publication projects, grants and reports, and other staff assignments.

Whitney holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Montana. She will receive a juris doctor degree from Drake University Law School in May of 2019. Additionally, Whitney will obtain certificates in environmental law, food and agricultural law, and public service.

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.

- [Insects](#) could vanish within a century at current rate of decline, says global review
- A public hearing on the Trump administration's proposed rewrite of the Waters of the US rule has been rescheduled for February 27-28 in Kansas City
- Federal government steps in to handle [Colorado River](#) drought crisis
- "Tinder for [Cows](#)" is now a thing, and British farmers are using it to breed cattle
- 18 million [trees](#) just died in California, continuing worries of major wildfires yet to come
- Louisiana online map shows where [pollution](#) has made waterways unsafe for swimming or fishing
- Farm Bill benefits [Arkansas](#) conservation programs
- As [tobacco](#) sales dry up, Kentucky farmers look to the state's original crop—hemp
- California "dry farmers" grow crops without [irrigation](#)
- [Monarch](#) butterfly population wintering in Mexico increases 144%
- US judge to allow controversial evidence in [Roundup](#) cancer trials
- USDA extends deadline for [farm aid](#) to February 14
- "Big crops, [low prices](#)" for a long time ahead, says US Congressional Budget Office
- The miracle method for sustainable [rice](#)—and bigger harvests
- Santa Clara County, California, supervisors approve US\$20 million farm [preservation](#) program
- Montana considering checkoff for [hemp](#)
- Dairy farms concerned with changes to [Canada](#) food guide
- How [racism](#) has shaped the America farming landscape
- What [soybean](#) politics tell us about Argentina and China

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.

Career Profile: Dale Threatt-Taylor

This month's featured career profile was written by Dee Shore and [originally appeared](#) in the North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Science News.



Dale Threatt-Taylor, Director of the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

Career Sector: Government

Degrees: BS in Conservation from North Carolina State University, Masters of Environmental Management from Duke University

Dale Threatt-Taylor is the director of the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District and Wake County's Soil and Water Conservation Department. She received a Bachelor of Science in Conservation from North Carolina State University in 1991, then began her career as a soil conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). She later joined the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District as a conservation technician and progressively moved into one of the natural resource conservationist positions. Dale received a Masters of Environmental Management from Duke University in 2011.

How did you end up in the conservation field?

When I started at North Carolina State University, I was going to be a chemical engineer; it pays well. But a botany and zoology class clicked. It put all of the pieces together so that I understood how the environment works. I understood why the soil is important, why clean air is important, and that we humans are a piece of that. All my love of science ... came out when I took that one class.

Once I got a hold of conservation, I haven't let go. I mentor young people and I tell them, "If you're not walking in the direction of whatever your thing is, or if you're going in some direction just because somebody else said, you need to refocus. You need something that you love to get up and go to."

For me, conservation has been a wonderful career. ... As much as I love the science part, it's the collaboration and the partnership with people that's the best part of the job.

Can you tell us more about Soil and Water Conservation Districts? What are they?

It's a locally led conservation organization. There are 3,000 districts across the nation—96 of them in North Carolina. We're nonpartisan (and) nonregulatory: we're the good guys who go out and help people help the land.

Here in North Carolina, water quality is our core value and work driver—we work to stop erosion, enhance wildlife, plant trees, and improve soil health. We basically evaluate natural resource problems, come back and design a plan to fix them, and then work with landowners to fix the problems, and then we follow up and make sure it stays fixed.

What is the number one thing you want people to know about conservation?

Everyone should consider themselves a conservationist—and then act on it. I believe every single person can be a natural resource conservationist on any level, no matter their profession, their family—no matter what! You can just find out what parts of the natural world you love. Do you cycle on the greenways? Do you farm? Do you eat fresh vegetables and local foods? Do you breathe clean air and drink clean water? All of that has to do with conservation.

We are raising the next generation of environmentalists, or at least a generation of children who are aware of their natural environment; the track that we were on for a while, they were only aware of a screen and a digital keyboard. But we are getting them back outside. Getting them outdoors and understanding—and loving—this one blue marble that we live on.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

It comes back to leadership: We need to continue to mentor each other and help each other explore all opportunities connected with [North Carolina State University] College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). I take every opportunity I can to mentor young people, and it's important for them to know more about CALs. There are so many different possibilities available in CALs; we don't want people to hear CALs and think "ag and biology," or something like that. Not only is it those two great areas, but so much more. If we could somehow really reconnect healthy food and healthy living to agriculture and life sciences—if we could just make those connections in a positive way—it could open their eyes.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in January!

Arkansas—Razorback

Eric Fuselier

Colorado

Meghan McCarroll

Connecticut/Massachusetts/Rhode Island—Southern

New England Chapter

Matt Kelly

DC—National Capital Chapter

G. Tracy Mehan III

Iowa

Whitney Bugni

Dustin Miller

John Torbert

Indiana—Hoosier

John Mundell

Missouri—Show Me

Macie Clark

Erin Forsythe

Christopher Groh

Rachel Kohne

Aimee McPherson

Andy Milner

Paula Welter

North Dakota

Dalten Kuhn

Nebraska

Donnie Engelhardt

New Mexico

Emile Elias

Ohio—All Ohio

Terry Sobecki

Harold Watters

Pennsylvania—Keystone

Jessica Henry

Joe Sweeney

South Dakota

John McMaine

Wisconsin

Michele Sadauskas

Corporate Members

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

Gold



Silver



Bronze

