



CONSERVOGRAM

The newsletter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

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75th SWCS International Annual Conference

Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center
Des Moines, Iowa
July 26-29, 2020
www.swcs.org/20AC

Exhibitor and Sponsorship Opportunities

The 75th SWCS International Annual Conference is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with a uniquely targeted group of conservation and environmental professionals. 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.

Download and review the [Exhibitor and Sponsor Guide](#) for more information.

If sponsorship is secured by **March 6**, recognition will also be included in the preliminary program.

Poster Presentation Proposals

The deadline to submit your poster presentation proposal for the 75th SWCS International Annual Conference is **March 6**. Please note that these submissions will not appear in the Preliminary Program.

Visit www.swcs.org/20AC to download the Call for Poster Presentations and to submit your abstract.



EXPANDING HORIZONS
WHERE CONSERVATION MEETS INNOVATION



SWCS 75TH INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 26-29, 2020 | DES MOINES, IOWA

945 SW Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50023

P: 515-289-2331 | F: 515-289-1227 | pubs@swcs.org

Join Give Journal



Conservation Photo Contest

We want to see photos that display soil and water conservation in action, showcase the beauty of our natural resources, pay tribute to past achievements, and/or inspire conservation professionals working to ensure the future of our natural resources on both private and public lands.

Submit a photo by June 5 for a chance to be selected for display at the 75th SWCS International Annual Conference, July 26-29, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa, and to compete for two awards!

It is free to submit and open to the public—visit www.swcs.org/photocontest for full details.

Upcoming Events

[Southern New England Chapter
2020 Winter Conference](#)
Amherst, Massachusetts
March 20, 2020

 Find us on
Facebook
facebook.com/soilandwaterconservation

New Individual Award and Scholarship Opportunities for 2020

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 about our new and streamlined award process and to submit your nomination.

Are you in need of financial assistance to continue your education or update your skill set? Consider applying for one of the SWCS scholarships today! Visit www.swcs.org/scholarships for additional information and to fill out your application.

Submission deadline for individual awards and scholarships is **April 24, 2020**.



Chapter Activity Report and Awards Nomination

The mandatory chapter activity report is now available [online](#). This report is combined with the chapter awards nomination form, allowing chapters to easily apply for two annual awards when filling out the report. Reports must be completed by **March 29, 2020**. Questions? Contact your chapter leader or memberservices@swcs.org.



Northeast and Northwest Region Elections

SWCS is searching for our next Northeast and Northwest Regional Directors. The nominations deadline is **March 2, 2020**.

Visit www.swcs.org/election for information on submitting a candidate for the Northeast and Northwest Regional Director positions.



SWCS at the NACD Conference

SWCS CEO Clare Lindahl and At-Large Board Director Jane Hardisty represented SWCS at the 2020 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) 74th Annual Meeting, February 8-12, in Las Vegas, Nevada. They had a great time bringing the Society's 75th anniversary celebration to Vegas while promoting membership opportunities and meeting with conservation partners from across the country.



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.

- In agricultural giant Brazil, a new and growing hazard: The illegal trade of [pesticides](#)
- Amid growing interest in [hemp](#), USDA stands firm on rules
- Why many [organic farmers](#) 'didn't notice the trade war'
- A champion for [healthy soil](#): Why we need a Healthy Soil Act
- USDA casts vision for [scientific initiatives](#) through 2025
- In fight to survive, [US dairy](#) farmers look to any tech edge
- GOP bill will seek to commit United States to planting \$3.3 billion [trees](#) annually
- [Montana](#) ranchers, conservationists lock horns over free-ranging bison
- Corteva to stop making [pesticide](#) linked to kids' health problems
- Trump Administration lessens clean water protections for streams, [wetlands](#)
- Soil Health Institute releases state level [soil health](#) policy resources
- We're not fixing this environmental crisis. One ditch in [Indiana](#) could provide a solution.
- [Prairie strips](#) now part of federal conservation program
- Prescribed burns benefit [bees](#)
- The verdict is in: Farm [bankruptcies](#) up in 2019
- Genetics, not field conditions, make [hemp](#) 'go hot'
- Trump signs United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement ([USMCA](#)), sealing political win with bipartisan deal
- US Environmental Protection Agency re-approves key [Roundup](#) chemical
- New oat, wheat [markets](#) debut in Iowa
- [Conservation reserve program](#) is 'competitive' this year despite lower rental rates
- Spanberger questions USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency administrator on 2018 [Farm Bill](#) implementation
- Can vegans and [ranchers](#) work together to rebuild the world's soil?
- [Brexit](#): What next for farming as the UK exits the EU?

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.

From the SWCS Archives

Regardless of your age or background, conservation is an issue that impacts everyone. Since the 1950s, the Society has produced millions of comic-style booklets geared toward kids of all ages. The first one was published in 1959 and was the result a celebrity collaboration with the creator of the “Dennis the Menace” comic strip—Hank Ketcham. In 1957, Ketcham attended the Society’s annual meeting in Pacific Grove, California. While there he was inspired to install water conservation practices on his ranch in Monterey County. He then took it one step further by adapting the Society’s message of soil conservation into a comic book featuring Dennis Mitchell, his parents, and his forlorn neighbor, Mr. Wilson.

In this comic Dennis learns about the importance of soil conservation through Mr. Mitchell’s telling him where food and forest products come from. In the end, six-year-old Dennis is so impressed with soil conservation that he literally “saves” soil by trucking bucketloads of the stuff into the Mitchell’s living room (much to the dismay of his parents)! This whimsical take on soil conservation connected the Society to a brand new (and much younger) audience.

To see more cartoons like these, follow SWCS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Source: Hank Ketcham, “Dennis The Menace and Dirt,” (Hall Syndicate, 1959). SWCS archives.

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 the past month:

- [Research: To improve conservation, start with listening to rural landowners](#) (The Daily Yonder)
- [The contaminant we can’t live without](#) (Grist)
- [Nanosatellites improve detection of early-season corn nitrogen stress](#) (University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences via ScienceDaily)
- [After a rough 2019, farmers and Congress discuss agriculture’s role as a climate solution](#) (Inside Climate News via GreenBiz)

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



SWCS is on Instagram!
Follow @SWCSnews for inspirational quotes and photos, and feel free to tag us in your conservation shots!



@SWCSnews

New Members

Welcome members who joined in January!

Arkansas—Razorback

David Corbett
Erika Valek

California/Nevada

Kim Spillane

Canada—Ontario

Madeleine Arseneau

Colorado

Bryan Klyse

DC—National Capital Chapter

Katie Cerretani
Steven Wallander

Florida

Alexander Valigosky

Indiana—Hoosier

Joshlyn Held

Iowa

Mark Tollefson

Massachusetts—University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Student Chapter
Eric Sirkovich

Michigan

Brockton Feltman

Missouri—Show-Me

Alexander Taylor
Tacia Williams
April Wilson

New York—Empire State

Karl Strause

Ohio—All Ohio

Barbara Baker
Alec Grimm
Eric Schwab

South Dakota

Navdeep Singh

Texas—Golden Spread

Jon Cotton

Corporate Partners

Please contact memberservices@swcs.org or visit swcs.org/corporatepartner for more details.

Gold



Silver



New Conservation Community Members

Welcome community members who joined in January! Learn how to become a conservation community member [here](#).

Ohio—All Ohio

Seneca Conservation District