

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. As staff are working remotely, [please use email](#) to connect with SWCS at this time.

76th SWCS International Annual Conference

Virtual Event
July 26–28, 2021
www.swcs.org/21AC

There are only two days left to submit your live demo, virtual tour, field day, workshop, oral presentation, symposia, or poster for the 76th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place virtually, July 26-28, 2021. Share your conservation research and projects with an international audience.

The submission deadline is **Wednesday, February 17**. Please note that there will be no extension this year.

Visit www.swcs.org/21AC for more information and to submit your proposal.

Become a Sponsor!

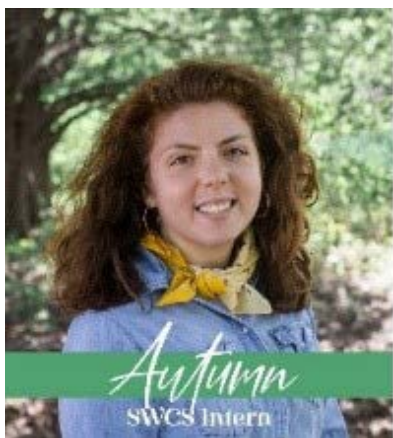
The virtual 76th SWCS International Annual Conference is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with a uniquely targeted group of conservation and environmental professionals. Becoming a sponsor gives you an affordable opportunity to market your products and services to a key audience and maximize your organization's exposure. Allow us to help connect your organization with our audience of nearly a thousand conservation professionals.

Download and review the [Sponsor Guide](#) for more information. If sponsorship is secured by **April 2**, recognition will also be included in the preliminary program.

SWCS Student Leader Project Intern Opportunity!

The Soil and Water Conservation Society, in partnership with [Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees](#), is looking for an intern to assist us in the operations of the 76th SWCS International Annual Conference and development of a nonprofit program. Intern tasks may include resource creation and design, communications support, market research, Website, Facebook and other media editing, logistical support for executing an annual conference, assisting with various administrative tasks, and more.

The intern will gain professional work experience, interact with national leaders in agriculture and natural resource conservation, and learn about the operations of an international nonprofit. At the conclusion of the internship, the intern will participate in the virtual 76th SWCS International Annual Conference and experience a professional conference as both an organizer and participant. The application deadline is **March 5, 2021**. View the [Internship Announcement](#) for more information.



“Working as an intern for SWCS was one of the most influential opportunities of my undergraduate career thus far.”

Award Nominee Submissions are Open

The awards program of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is designed to recognize individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. Nominate a deserving individual by **April 23, 2021**. View the [awards flyer](#) and visit www.swcs.org/awards for additional information and to submit your nomination.

SWCS Scholarships are Available

The Soil and Water Conservation Society has three scholarship opportunities for all members. Submit your application by **April 23, 2021**. View the [scholarship flyer](#) and visit www.swcs.org/scholarships for additional information and to complete your application.

Chapter Activity Report and Awards Nomination Form

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 **April 23, 2021**.

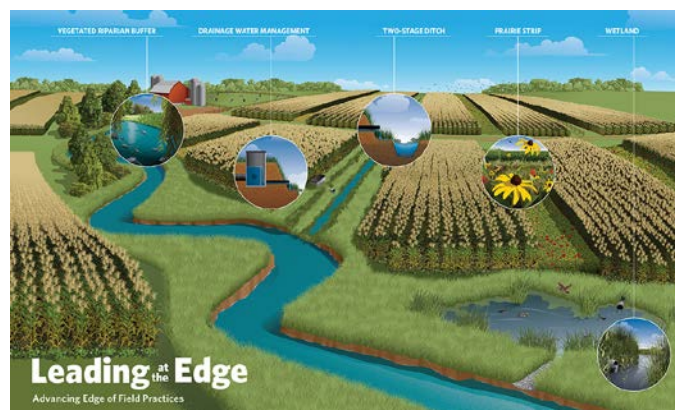
Questions? Contact your chapter leader or memberservices@swcs.org.

SWCS and Partners Launch Edge of Field Roadmap

On February 8, 2021, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, partnering with The Nature Conservancy and Meridian Institute, launched the “Edge of Field Roadmap”—a roadmap to accelerate the adoption of edge of field practices on US farmlands. Edge of field practices—like saturated buffers and prairie strips—can help farmers improve water quality, store more carbon in the soil, reduce flooding, support pollinators, and enhance wildlife habitat in working landscapes.

The roadmap was developed through a collaborative effort supported by the Walmart Foundation to convene 26 partners—senior leaders from agriculture, the supply chain, civil organizations, and former government officials—to develop a cohesive set of recommendations that, if implemented together, will accomplish a collective goal for improved water quality and resilient working lands and communities.

There are many opportunities embedded within the roadmap to work together to scale up conservation across the United States. We hope that you will find it useful and inspiring, and be able to see yourself and the work of conservation professionals reflected in its recommendations. To learn more about the Edge of Field Roadmap, visit nature.org/EdgeofField.



Enter Free Conservation Photo Contest

Enter our free photo contest by **May 19** for a chance to win a \$50 e-gift card from Amazon, be selected for display during the virtual SWCS International Annual Conference, and see your photo on the cover of the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*!

We want to see photos that display soil and water conservation and people in action, showcase the beauty of the world's natural resources, and/or inspire conservation professionals working to ensure the future of our natural resources on both private and public lands. Additionally, providing a descriptive caption for your photo, including how it portrays conservation, will help bring the photo to life for our judges. View the photo contest information at www.swcs.org/21PC.



Dr. Gretchen Sassenrath Appointed New Editor of JSWC

The *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* (JSWC) has had a leadership change. On February 1, 2021, Dr. Jorge A. Delgado, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), stepped down as Research Editor after leading the journal for 20 years. Dr. Delgado has consistently improved the quality of the journal throughout his tenure, bringing the journal impact factor up 216% as of 2019 and increasing trends in citations as of 2019 up 323%. Over 3,000 papers have been reviewed under his guidance, and during this time the journal moved from mail/print correspondence to online tracking and subscriptions. Dr. Delgado also began the journal's well-cited series of special issues and has worked to increase the international scope and impact of the journal and its Editorial Board. He has served as the driving force behind the journal's many recent successes. Though he has left the role of Research Editor, Dr. Delgado will continue to serve on the Editorial Board in an advisory role throughout 2021.

Dr. Gretchen F. Sassenrath has been selected and approved by the SWCS Board of Directors to fill the position of Research Editor. Dr. Sassenrath is a professor in the Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, stationed at the Southeast Research and Extension Center. Previously, she held postdoctoral positions at Michigan State University and University of California,



Dr. Gretchen Sassenrath

qualified for the position as Research Editor.

Davis, and spent 21 years with the USDA ARS. Dr. Sassenrath is a member of the SWCS Kansas Chapter, has served as an Associate Editor of the JSWC since 2015, and received the 2020 Associate Editor of Excellence Award for her outstanding contributions. Her strong publication record, broad expertise in both conservation research and practice, and proven dedication to advancing conservation science and the JSWC make her highly

SWCS is deeply grateful to Dr. Delgado for his outstanding and invaluable efforts to establish the JSWC as a leading journal in conservation science, and we are looking forward to building upon his successes under the leadership and vision of Dr. Gretchen Sassenrath.

More Cows Coming Your Way: Print Error in the Latest Journal Issue



Journal of Soil and Water Conservation print subscribers will see a second copy of the January/February issue—the one with grazing cattle on the cover—arriving in the mail soon. Due to a printer error, the first copy jumbled several pages and divided a few articles. SWCS apologizes for the confusion this error may have caused and is resending the journal. To read the articles in their entirety in the meantime,

content may also be accessed online:

- [“Accelerating regenerative grazing to tackle farm, environmental, and societal challenges in the upper Midwest”](#) by Spratt et al.
- [“Integrated biochar research: A roadmap”](#) by Amonette et al.
- [“The effects of soil aeration prior to dairy manure application on edge-of-field hydrology and nutrient fluxes in cold climate hayland agroecosystems”](#) by Twombly et al.
- [“Sources of sediments during rainfall in the dry-hot valley region of China on a small watershed scale”](#) by Liu et al.

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.

- A “giant” in DFL politics, [Collin Peterson](#) reflects on three decades in Congress
- Upper [Colorado River](#) drought plan triggered for first time
- Opinion: President Biden, please don't get into [carbon farming](#)
- Updates made to [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#)
- Biden administration: Tide shifting on [climate change](#) discussion
- Pingree aims for urgency at [Interior-Environment](#) appropriations
- New US strategy could create \$20B fund to fight [climate disasters](#)
- Farmers are worried about climate change but skeptical of [carbon markets](#)
- [Ranchers](#) back blueberry growers in trade claim
- Protesting [Indian farmers](#) begin hunger strike after week of clashes over agricultural laws
- Governor Gavin Newsom of California seeks higher fees on [pesticides](#)
- Travel policy changes after fears of ban on travel for South African [farm workers](#)
- After COVID-related livestock kills, a push to diversify [meat processing](#) in Minnesota
- This GOP congressman wants to remove 4 dams to save Idaho's [salmon](#). It'll cost billions.
- WWF Study: Larger US [dairy farms](#) could achieve net-zero emissions within 5 years
- Reservoirs of life: how [hedgerows](#) can help the UK reach net zero in 2050
- The [indoor farms](#) disrupting the produce industry
- White House says [US-China](#) trade deal among issues in broad review
- Biden administration to give [debt relief](#) to 12,000 farmers
- Bringing back the most [endangered bird](#) in the US
- No fix in sight for dispute over opening New Jersey farmland to large [solar projects](#)

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.

Conservation NewsBriefs: Popular Articles from January

CONSERVATION NEWSBRIEFS

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:

- [Using soil to make art](#) (Smithsonian Magazine)
- [Research shows grazing cover crops can add economic value](#) (The Eagle)
- [Why aren't USDA conservation programs paying farmers more to improve their soil?](#) (Civil Eats)
- [A new study on regenerative grazing complicates climate optimism](#) (Civil Eats)

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

Upcoming Events

[Michigan Chapter ANR Webinars](#)

Virtual Event
March 2-3, 2021

[76th SWCS International Annual Conference](#)

Virtual Event
July 26-28, 2021

New Members

Welcome members who joined in January

International

Kumar V

California/Nevada

Miguel Garcia

DC—National Capital Chapter

Skip Hyberg

Iowa

Jacqueline Comito

Sheila Maurer

Elizabeth Ripley

Kentucky—Bluegrass

Katherine Terry

Michigan

Beth Gruden

Minnesota

Manny Sabbagh

North Dakota

Stephanie Baker

Nebraska

Kimberly Brown

New Hampshire/Vermont

Alissa White

New York—Empire State

Ronald Bush

Ohio—All Ohio

Bob Midden

Texas—Golden Spread

Deborah January-Bevers

Texas—Heart of Texas

Chad Ellis

Wisconsin

Missi Blue

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

