

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

Final Day to Submit a Presentation for the 78th International Annual Conference

Don't miss out on the opportunity to share your research and projects with an international audience! Oral presentation, poster presentation, symposium, professional development session, and workshop submissions are due **today, February 15**, for the 78th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place in Des Moines, Iowa, August 6-9, 2023.

Please note there will not be an extension this year. We are recommending that individuals submit their abstracts even if they do not have current travel authorization. There will be an opportunity to withdraw your presentation at a later date, if needed.

Visit www.swcs.org/23AC for more information and to [submit your presentation proposal](#) TODAY!

Download the Call for Presentations



78th SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FINAL DAY

SUBMIT YOUR PRESENTATION BY THE
END OF DAY TODAY, FEBRUARY 15

Annual Conference Exhibitor and Sponsor Opportunities

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**.

SWCS Student Leader Internship Announced

SWCS, in partnership with [Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees](#), is looking for a summer Student Leader Project Intern. The application deadline is **March 1, 2023**. View the [Internship Announcement](#).

Learn more about other student opportunities at www.swcs.org/students.



Upcoming Events

[Lessons from Leaders: Accelerating the Adoption of Conservation Drainage](#)

Virtual Event
February 22, 2023

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

Virtual Event
February 23, 2023

[SWCS Book Club: A Year with Aldo Leopold](#)

Virtual Event
February 24, 2023

[SWCS Michigan Chapter ANR Seminar](#)

St. Johns, MI
March 10, 2023

[Lessons from Leaders: Accelerating the Adoption of Conservation Drainage](#)

Virtual Event
March 22, 2023

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

Amherst, MA
March 30, 2023

[SWCS Book Club: A Year with Aldo Leopold](#)

Virtual Event
March 31, 2023

SWCS Headquarters Welcomes New Communications Coordinator



Emma Harper has joined the SWCS team in the role of communications coordinator. She is responsible for creating and implementing marketing and communications content to promote SWCS and our mission via social media, website, press releases, email, and other communication mediums.

She will also oversee SWCS's annual giving campaign.

Emma grew up on a small sheep and cattle farm in southwestern Iowa, where she spent a lot of time wrangling sheep, exploring the wilderness, and running up the unforgiving hills of the Southern Iowa Drift Plain. She developed a strong passion for people and conservation that grew as she earned a degree in Agriculture Communications and Global Resource Systems at Iowa State University. Emma has further developed her research, fundraising, communication, and conservation skills through her experience in the Uganda Service Learning Program and as the development coordinator at Iowa Ag Water Alliance. She is excited to bring these to the table to support conservation professionals.

Submit Award Nomination or Scholarship Application

The SWCS [awards program](#) is designed to recognize individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in advocating the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources. Nominate an individual today! SWCS also has three [scholarship opportunities](#) for all members. Take advantage today and apply!

The awards and scholarship application deadline is **March 31, 2023**. Visit [our website](#) for additional details on how to apply.



Enter Free Conservation Photo Contest

Enter our free photo contest by May 31 for a chance to win a \$50 e-gift card from Amazon, be selected for display during the 78th SWCS International Annual Conference and on the virtual resources platform following the event, 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.

View the photo contest information at www.swcs.org/23PC.



Welcome, New Members!

SWCS headquarters will be hosting a virtual "New Member Welcome" quarterly for those who have recently joined. If you are new to SWCS, save the date for the next event on **Wednesday, May 3**, from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. CT. We will share tips for making the most of your SWCS membership and connecting with fellow conservationists. SWCS Chapter and Community Builder Renee Bouldin and Membership Director Erika Crady will present this welcome via Zoom to those who joined after January 15, 2023. More information will be sent to your email closer to the event. Email events@swcs.org with any questions.



Upcoming Webinar Series

SWCS hosts several educational webinar series, all of which are free or exclusive to members. Learn more at www.swcs.org/events/webinars.

Lessons from Leaders: Accelerating the Adoption of Conservation Drainage [webinar series](#) was created to provide a platform for conservation practitioners and producers across disciplines to connect with and learn from leading stakeholders about opportunities and challenges in advancing conservation drainage adoption. The second session titled "Practitioner Perspectives" is February 22, from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. CT.

Conservation Matters is a new webinar series brought to you by the SWCS Science and Policy Committee. The first session is Thursday, February 23, at 12 p.m. CT, and is titled "Leveraging Multi-Agency Partnerships to Advance Conservation Planning." This series is for SWCS members only, and [registration details](#) will be sent directly to your inbox.

Session 4 of our **Professional Development Series** is coming up on Thursday, February 23, at 5 p.m. CT. Ms. Yai Vargas will lead attendees through how to "Brand U." This series is held in partnership with MANRRS and the Soil Health Institute. [Registration](#) is open to all!

The next session of the **SWCS Members Only Book Club: A Year with Aldo Leopold** is February 24, at 12 p.m. CT. Our January session was a great success as participants discussed the first chapter of *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold. [Registration details](#) will be sent directly to active members.

Science and Policy Update: January Meeting

Courtesy of Gretchen Sassenrath

The Science and Policy Committee met on Thursday, January 12, 2023, for its regular monthly meeting scheduled for the second Thursday of each month. At the meeting, Joe Otto explained the new format for the Science and Policy committee meetings.

The committee will begin sponsoring a regular monthly webinar series, "Conservation Matters," on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12 p.m. CT. These virtual events will be open to all members of the Society and will be recorded for later viewing. The webinar series will be an opportunity to present hot topics related to science and policy to the membership of the Society. The [first webinar](#) will be presented on February 23 by Brian Rast, US Army Corp of Engineers, Lead Silver Jackets Coordinator, and Scott Satterthwaite of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. They will speak on "Leveraging Multi-Agency Partnerships to Advance Conservation Planning."

The Science and Policy Committee will continue meeting on the second Thursday of each month to explore critical issues of relevance to the Society. These meetings will be focused working groups to strategize and advance projects.

Additionally, the committee approved the selection of a new student representative, Ravi Teja Neelipally. Ravi is working on his PhD in agronomy/soil science at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville under the direction of Dr. Sindhu Jagadamma. He is interested in the conservation of natural resources policy, particularly in sustainable organic production systems. In addition to his research in organic grain rotations, Ravi is also a graduate teaching assistant.

As the first task this year, the Science and Policy Committee will examine conservation issues related to the farm bill. A new farm bill will be developed this year. As the premier scientific organization focusing on conservation, the Society will develop a white paper on critical conservation topics that can be addressed through farm bill legislation. The committee will begin with a review of the [previous white paper](#) published in the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* by Manale et al. in 2018, "Principles and policies for soil and water conservation." This paper presented eight principles for conservation and their implications for policy. The Science and Policy Committee will examine these principles, delineate progress toward improvements to conservation, identify limitations or roadblocks, and develop actions needed to move forward for integrating science into conservation. This will be developed into a new white paper for publication.

To better explore the farm bill and how the Society can contribute to conservation aspects of farm bill legislature, Andy Manale, retired senior policy analyst from the US Environmental Protection Agency, reviewed the process of developing the farm bill and titles of particular interest to the Society, including the Commodity, Risk Management, Conservation, Research, Forestry, and Miscellaneous. These titles include funding support for programs paid directly to farmers (e.g., Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Reserve Program) and support for research (e.g., Conservation Effects Assessment Project), and support programs and projects on soil, water, wildlife, and air quality. While Andy cautioned the committee that farm bills evolve slowly, he encouraged the group to focus on the strengths of the Society to address development of the next farm bill. Key items of importance include establishing principles that influence the debates in Washington, DC, and conducting analytical work that provides the fundamental science for supporting policy changes. The Society can also play a key role in education of the science and practice of conservation by explaining to political constituents how programs and policies affect their well-being, and by acting as the information broker and consensus builder. Society members have the knowledge and skills to develop and support new pilot projects to move conservation forward. The real strength of the Society is our credibility as the honest broker, knowledgeable of all aspects related to conservation. As the new farm bill is developed, information on the progress and process will be available from the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service (CRS). These reports can be found online at [crsreports.congress.gov/](https://www.crsreports.congress.gov/). The Society has traditionally had members who work for CRS.

The Science and Policy Committee is open to any members of the Society. For information on joining the committee, please contact Joe Otto at joe.otto@swcs.org.

New Members

Welcome members who joined in January!

International

Tom Bruulsema

Arkansas—Razorback

Kristie Glass

California/Nevada

Lisa Dibbell

DC—National Capital Chapter

Nancy Stoner

Florida

Judyson de Matos Oliveira

Kimberly Fox

Iowa

Kimberly Fox

Indiana—Hoosier

Trevor Winston

Kansas—Kansas State University

Megan Bourns

Jacoby Kerr

Minnesota

William Gregory

Rita Weaver

North Dakota

Lindy Berg

Emilee Lachenmeier

Paul Overby

Oregon

Steve Werblow

Tennessee

Ravi Neelipally

Texas—Heart of Texas

Deeder Aurongzeb

Wisconsin—University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Student Chapter

Claire Harwood

Corporate Partners

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

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

